

## Arens to fly to U.S. today

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens will travel to Washington Sunday for talks with U.S. Defense Secretary Dick Cheney, the defense ministry said on Saturday. The ministry said Mr. Arens would leave Israel on Sunday night and return on Tuesday. The short statement did not say specifically what they would discuss. Mr. Cheney, now visiting U.S. forces in Saudi Arabia to assess when a ground war might begin, is due to brief President George Bush Monday. The ministry statement said Mr. Arens's visit was "part of dialogue between the two countries." Israeli military sources said the meeting was set up at short notice. Israeli Deputy Army Chief of Staff Eliezer Berak and Defense Ministry Director-General David Ivi visited the United States last week for talks with Pentagon officials.

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## Help Jordan, France says

PARIS (R) — Jordan should be helped through the Gulf war rather than chastised for its criticism of the U.S.-led coalition. French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas said in an interview to be published Sunday. Mr. Dumas told the French weekly Journal Du Dimanche he feared the war of words between the United States and Jordan could escalate. "We must not push Jordan into the arms of Iraq... we must the contrary make easier the task of the King of Jordan," he said. U.S. President Bush had criticized his Majesty King Hussein this week and charged he had moved "way over" to Iraq after the Monarch accused allied forces of trying to destroy Iraq. Jordan "suffers from the war... (it) has welcomed refugees in tragic conditions, he deserves some respect. It would be a mistake to let things deteriorate," Mr. Dumas said. He said he had discussed the issue with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and France's European Community (EC) partners.

## Iraq reports heavy allied casualties



A Baghdad building hit in the allied air raids

## Baghdad skies quiet, but intense air attacks on Basra

Combined agency dispatches

IRAQ SAID Saturday it inflicted heavy casualties on allied troops with a barrage of rocket fire into Saudi Arabia, reported a missile strike on Tel Aviv and declared that its forces were ready to repel a ground offensive.

A military communiqué broadcast on Baghdad Radio Saturday night said allied forces carried out 345 air raids on Iraq late Friday and early Saturday.

The skies over Baghdad were quiet, in contrast with recent days. But travellers arriving from the southern port city of Basra said intensive air raids continued there, targeting industrial sites and communications installations.

The military communiqué said the missile attack on Israel, which caused at least 25 injuries according to Israeli officials, was launched

because "the Zionists are behind every aggression against Arabs and Iraq."

"After doing their duty, our missile launchers returned safely to base, with God's help," the radio said.

The radio said the missile fired at Israel was an Al Hussein, a modified longer-range version of the Soviet-designed Scud missile.

The military communiqué also said Iraqi troops "directed a series of strikes with ground rockets at enemy positions across our borders with Saudi Arabia, causing many losses in men and ammunition on the hostile side." It gave no details.

U.S. marine artillery fire and air strikes destroyed an Iraqi command post inside Kuwait in a modified longer-range version of the Soviet-designed Scud missile.

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## Velayati says American policy remains unchanged

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Iran's foreign minister foresees no improvement in relations with the United States but says Tehran is ready to explore a security pact with Arab governments in the Gulf.

Ali Akbar Velayati, in an interview with the magazine Middle East Insight, said Washington does not want to change its foreign policy in order to repair relations with Iran.

He cited Iranian assets that remain frozen after more than a decade. "The United States hasn't changed its policy," Mr. Velayati said. "If you compare their policy now with their own policy 10 years ago, it is the same as when I came to the foreign ministry 10 years ago."

On the other hand, Mr. Velayati said Iranian cooperation with the Gulf countries, including Iraq, was essential in order to have "a secure and calm region."

He said the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), led by Saudi Arabia, "cannot ignore the role of Iran which has grossly 50 per cent of the total coast of the Persian

Gulf."

Mr. Velayati said the Iran-Iraq war and Iraq's invasion of Kuwait "confirm this theory that without real and comprehensive cooperation among those countries which are in the region you cannot have security in this region."

The foreign minister was interviewed Jan. 31 in Tehran by George A. Nader, the magazine's editor.

On Thursday, Secretary of State James Baker told Congress the government was willing to have talks with Iranian leaders provided Tehran renounced "terrorism" and arranged the release of Americans held hostage by pro-Iranian forces in Lebanon.

The United States and Iran severed diplomatic ties in 1979.

Mr. Baker said Iran was making a "credible" effort to resolve the Gulf war but that its activities and those of other nations had not proved to be productive.

Some 100 Iraqi warplanes have been flown to Iran. The Tehran government, asserting its neutrality in the conflict, has pledged to keep them there until the war is over.

In the interview, Mr. Velayati challenged Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's authority to declare a holy war.

"This is not his job ..." the foreign minister said. "We have our religious leader, Ayatollah Khamenei is our religious leader. If he announces a holy war, all people will follow his order. But this is not the job of Saddam Hussein."

Mr. Velayati, which fought a costly eight-year war with Iraq until 1989, reaffirmed Iran's neutrality in the Gulf war.

"Our position is quite clear," he said. "We have said that we have a neutral position. We don't want to fight against one side to benefit another side. We will remain neutral."

Asked what Iran would do if it were threatened, the foreign minister replied: "We defend our principles, our territory, our sovereignty, our independence. That's quite clear. Any country should defend its own interests, its own sovereignty, independence ... If our country is attacked, we will react properly."



DEVASTATED: A bus drives along a Baghdad street where the wreckage of a building stands after being hit in the allied bombing raids

## Gulf peace team to stay on in Jordan to pursue its efforts

By Mariam M. Shahin

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — At least 22 of the original 93 members of the Gulf Peace Team will stay in Jordan to continue peaceful activities, team organisers say.

Among the projects that the peace team now considers is the creation of groups formed from the peace team to "symbolically" protect Red Crescent and Red Cross supplies and personnel going to Baghdad.

"We want to shield the medicament and humanitarian aid going to Baghdad from getting bombed. Our presence, we consider, would be a guarantee that the transport vans would be filled with humanitarian aid," said Tim Barker, one of the peace team members staying in Jordan.

Over 30 members of the team recently had an audience with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, who commended them for their efforts to halt the Gulf war and gave them some advice.

"The Crown Prince told us that he was concerned about our credibility and he suggested that we could do a lot to raise

the awareness about the realities of this war back home," Mr. Barker said.

Team organisers told the Jordan Times that since several of the peace team members are working in the media some of them will go to their home countries to report on what they have seen as soon as possible. Others meanwhile will stay here to continue documenting the war from Jordan.

A commemorative march to mark the 17th of every month by peace team members and their supporters around the world is also among the group's objectives. Those Gulf Peace Team members staying in Jordan plan to "link up" with Jordanian organisations that will demonstrate for peace on the 17th.

Organisers say that another peace camp along the Jordanian-West Bank border is also being considered by the team but final plans have not yet been made.

In an open letter that the peace team presented to the United States embassy as well as to the embassy of the United Kingdom in Amman the team

urged increased diplomatic efforts to bring about peace and understanding.

Bearing in mind the horrific war we are involved in and the need for a settlement of many issues in this area, we are deplored by reductions of essential embassy staff," read the letter.

"It is vital to be able to use all peaceful means to restore peace," the letter continued. "To this end an increase not a decrease would seem the correct action."

Urging the embassies to consider those foreign citizens who wish to stay in this part of the world the letter read, "We also remind you of the large number of your citizens here who desire to live in peace and harmony with their Arab hosts... these aspirations must be considered, as well as their right to continued consular services."

Team organisers say that they hope to raise as much consciousness as they can in their native countries, all in all some 15 around the world. Their friends in Jordan they hope "will be their friends forever."

## Sand like talcum powder gives allies maintenance headache

**SAUDI ARABIA (R)** — Fine sand like talcum powder has dramatically increased weapons and vehicle maintenance for U.S. and allied ground forces as they prepare for a possible offensive on Iraqi positions inside Kuwait.

Plagued for months in the run-up to the Gulf war by sand that clogged equipment, the forces now moved to forward positions find themselves on even more damaging terrain.

Maintenance crews say it could seriously impair equipment if the conflict lasts months.

The pervasive powdery sand of northern Saudi Arabia permeates weapons, vehicles and computers. The desert is also extremely rocky is taking its toll on supply and passenger vehicles.

"It's a nuisance we can do without. It required a lot of extra effort to keep things clean," said Sergeant First Class Surrender Koithakota, of a U.S. army maintenance battalion. "Longer term, it could be a serious problem."

Air filters on motor vehicles have to be changed every two

days compared with every 148,000 kilometres) under normal conditions. Sgt. Koithakota said.

Filters on gas attack detection systems, normally replaced every 72 hours, must be changed on the hour.

Magazines on M-16 rifles, standard U.S. infantrymen's equipment, clog with sand and have jammed and some soldiers wrap their rifles in undershirts to stop key components seizing up with desert dust.

The sand has clogged vehicle transmission and fuel filters and rocks puncture tyres.

"It just makes everyone's life more difficult," said Sgt. Scott Tarplee, who directs aircraft to repair troops. "It's not something that cannot be dealt with."

When the U.S.-led military buildup in Saudi Arabia began shortly after Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait, crews noticed sand was eroding the leading edges of helicopter rotor blades.

The military solved the problem by applying an epoxy tape to the edges. But in the north, where the sand is finer and rises

more easily, the tape has to be changed after several hours.

The fine dust gets sucked into helicopter engines and not even particle separators can keep it all out.

"For now, they are performing well," said Lieutenant-Colonel Bill Tucker, the commander of a U.S. army battalion of Apache tank-killing helicopters.

"It's going to have an effect. You can't put a time or a date on it," he said.

"It wears out moving parts of the engines. The sand collects inside the engine, causes it to get hotter and therefore it doesn't produce as much power."

Other Apache pilots said antennas and other sensitive electronic parts were at risk and that the whir of the rotors kicked up gravel which caused "dints and dings" on the aircraft that could eventually upset its aerodynamic structure.

Apache crew chief Sgt. Philip Pierce said parts on the helicopter had been replaced as needed and that supplies were being provided without too much delay.

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## Egypt says 17 held on Iraqi plots

**CAIRO (R)** — Egypt's interior minister was quoted Saturday as saying that 17 people had been arrested and had confessed to planning sabotage and assassination operations guided by Iraqi intelligence.

Minister Abdul Halim Musa said he and Foreign Minister Esmat Abdal Meguid were among the targets for "hit and run" killings.

The semi-official Al Ahram newspaper quoted Mr. Musa as saying that those arrested included four Iraqis, two Jordanians and a Tunisian.

Their aim was to create the impression that Egyptians were carrying out the attacks, he said.

Egypt has tightened security since the Gulf crisis in August. A key member in the anti-Iraq coalition, it has sent some 35,000 troops to the Gulf to fight Iraq.

In another interview, with the main circulation Al Ahbar, Mr. Musa said a maximum of 20,000 people were being detained under emergency laws introduced in 1981 after Muslim fundamentalists killed President Anwar Sadat.

Most of those were being held for drug or financial offences with a small number for political reasons.

"I stress there are no detentions without evidence," interrogations..." Mr. Musa said.

Maghdib Hussein, deputy editor of the opposition Al Shaab newspaper, has been detained without trial since Jan. 25 for criticising the Gulf war at a mosque, colleagues said.

On Friday, the Egyptian Organisation for Human Rights said psychiatrist and human rights activist Mohammad Mandour had been picked up at dawn in a crackdown on opponents of the Gulf.

At least 22 university students were also detained, the organisation said. Security officials said a number of students known to stage demonstrations had been picked up as part of "preventive and precautionary measures."

Mr. Musa warned in the Al Ahbar interview that troublemakers at universities — to reopen on Saturday and Sunday after a two-week closure for fear of demonstrations — would be dealt with firmly.

"Universities are a place for science and learning not for political activity," he said. "We will take action strongly and firmly against anyone who tries to cause unrest or block the learning process."

Legal political channels existed for students to vent their opposition, such as in the opposition media, he said, adding that no demonstrations would be allowed.

The coalition has gone beyond the mandate established by the U.N. and is now looking at the destruction of Iraq," he said.

"The mandate and scope of the U.N. proposal is broadening day by day. A ceasefire is not acceptable to the coalition."

However, Archbishop Keshishian said he believed there was still a chance for peace, but long-term peace in the region depended on the settlement of all Middle East conflicts.

"Peace is always a possibility in the Middle East ... despite the destruction," he said.

The problems of the Middle East are interrelated. We believe that this (Gulf) crisis can and should be solved in the broader context of all crises in the region," he said.

"This is not a local war, it is not a regional war, it is becoming, unfortunately, world war three."

Archbishop Keshishian, a member of the council's central committee and moderator at the assembly, said allied forces had overstepped the United Nations mandate to evict Iraq from Kuwait, adding that the United States had political motives for its military involvement.

"The coalition has gone beyond the mandate established by the U.N. and is now looking at the destruction of Iraq," he said.

He said the Gulf war was not a religious war, but a political war.

"It is a war with definite political and military purposes and goals," he said.

## War will damage Arab-U.S. ties for 50 years — bishop

**CANBERRA (R)** — The Gulf war will damage relations between the United States and the Arab World for the next 50 years, a senior American religious leader and member of the World Council of Churches (WCC) said Saturday.

"The war is a disproportionate response to Iraqi aggression and will cause more damage," Bishop Edmond Browning of the Anglican Episcopal Church in the United States told a news conference at the council's seventh assembly Saturday.

Bishop Browning said he did not believe the American people supported the war, despite U.S. opinion showing support at between 80 to 85 per cent.

"My analysis is that people are really not supporting the war. What they are praying for and hoping for is the young men and women and husbands and wives will return safely," he said.

Bishop Browning was critical of Mr. Bush for not heading the call by religious leaders for a ceasefire.

"It is clear that his agenda is very different from what we have asked for. I think his agenda is to get Iraq out of Kuwait, but whether he will then go beyond the border and into Iraq remains to be seen. But I think that is his major agenda," he said.

Bishop Browning said it was never too late to call a ceasefire and return to the negotiating table.

"Political negotiations are the only way to proceed," he said.

The World Council of Churches which represents 316 churches, excluding the Roman Catholic faith, meets every seven years to formulate religious policy. The seventh assembly runs until Feb. 20.

## Gulf war is turning into world war three — church leader

**CANBERRA (R)** — The Gulf war is turning into world war three with allied forces unprepared to negotiate a ceasefire, a senior executive of the World Council of Churches said Saturday.

"The war that is taking place in the Gulf area is not the Gulf war, it is a global war with all its dimensions, aspects, manifestations and implications," Archbishop Aram Keshishian of Lebanon's Armenian Orthodox Church told a news conference at the council's seventh assembly in the Australian capital.

"The war is not a regional war, it is becoming, unfortunately, world war three."

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He said the Gulf war was not a religious war, but a political war.

"It is a war with definite political and military purposes and goals," he said.

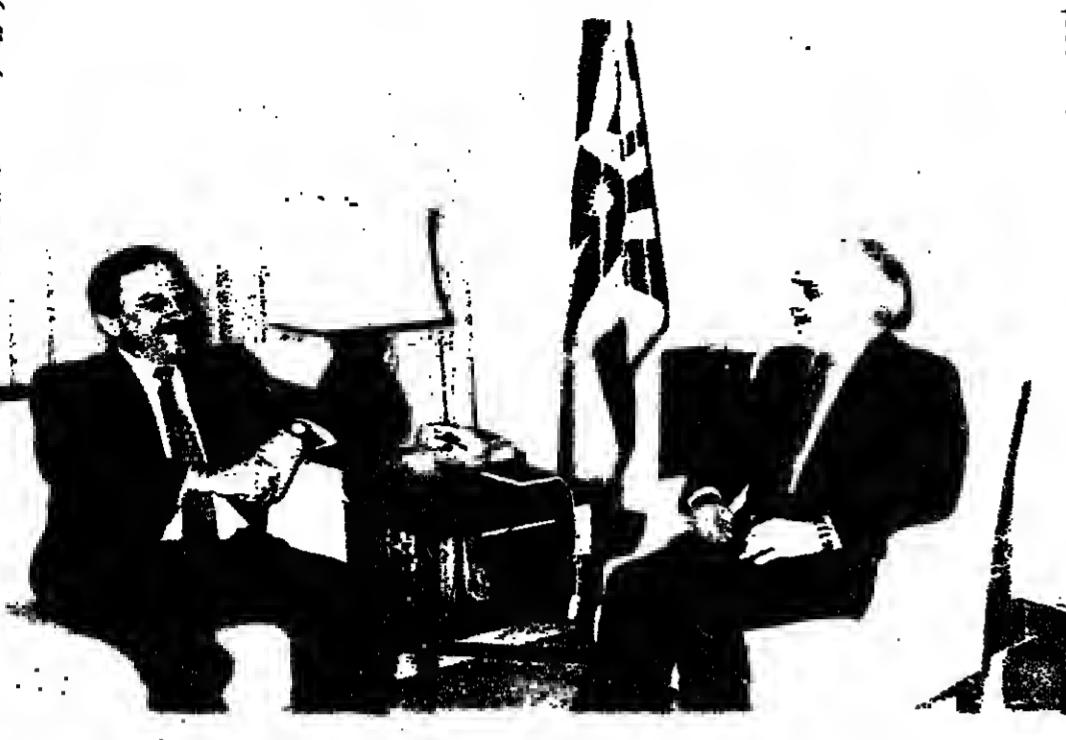
## MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

### Japanese volunteer to join Iraqi army

**TOKYO (R)** — At least a dozen Japanese men have volunteered to fight for Iraq, the Kyodo news agency said on Saturday. Iraq's embassy in Tokyo was noting the names of volunteers but has not said whether Baghdad would accept them as soldiers, the news agency said. Japanese Foreign Ministry officials and the Iraqi embassy were unavailable to comment. Koichi II, 24, went to the embassy to enlist in the Iraqi armed forces, Kyodo said. "I don't totally support Saddam Hussein but I do support his opinion that he is fighting to free Palestinians," the agency quoted him as saying. The Japanese government does not have the legal authority to stop people from volunteering, Kyodo quoted a Foreign Ministry official as saying.

### Soviets refuse to fly German missiles

**BONN (R)** — The transport of German anti-aircraft missiles to Turkey was unexpectedly delayed Friday when the Soviet crew



His Majesty King Hussein Saturday receives Cypriot Foreign Minister George Iacovou (Petra photo)

## RJ buses join fleet of public transport

AMMAN (J.T.) — A decline in Royal Jordanian (RJ) flights and the general weak air transport on Middle East routes has helped the national air carrier to release 15 of its buses to be used by the Public Transport Corporation (PTC) along with other PTC buses operating in Amman, according to an RJ official Saturday.

The official said that an agreement was signed recently between RJ and the PTC under which the latter would assume the operation of the 15 buses for public transport following the government decision to allow private cars to run on alternate days only.

Under the agreement the PTC would make use of five 50-passenger, five 25-passenger and five 14-passenger buses along with their 20 drivers to work for the PTC for a whole month.

The agreement is renewable with the consent of both parties and, according to the official, RJ would carry out the maintenance and repair services to the buses during the lease.

Offering the buses to the PTC is a clear RJ contribution to the national efforts aimed at reducing fuel consumption, an objective sought by the government under the present difficult circumstances, the official noted.

He said that once the crisis is over, RJ would resume its full and normal air and land activities.

The PTC has 300 buses operating along its various routes in the Greater Amman region, in addition to 50 buses which were hired from the Jordan Express Tourist and Transport Company (JETT) under a recent agreement.

Transport and Telecommunications Minister Jamal Sararach said that the availability of sufficient buses should prompt citizens to opt for public transport rather than private cars.

Upon introducing the recent regulations concerning the private cars, a government statement said that the move was expected to save up to 35 per cent of the total normal fuel consumption.

Before the introduction of the new measures, the Kingdom was normally consuming 60,000 barrels of Iraqi oil a month. But with the bombing raids on the tanker trucks along the Amman-Baghdad route, the government had no alternative but to take drastic measures to cut oil consumption.

According to the director of the traffic department, road accidents in Jordan have been cut by half following the application of the new government measures regarding the use of private cars.

## IOM gets Japanese aid to help evacuees

AMMAN (J.T.) — Japanese organisations have either pledged or provided funds to the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) to charter planes to repatriate evacuees coming into Jordan from the Gulf region, according to an IOM official in Amman.

He told the Jordan Times that at least \$500,000 have either been pledged or received by his organisation to carry out the transportation of the evacuees arriving from Iraq and Kuwait.

The IOM charters planes from Sudan Air or Royal Jordanian (RJ) to carry out the repatriation process, the official noted.

Agence France Presse (AFP) earlier reported the arrival of 143 refugees in Cairo on an IOM chartered flight from Amman and the official said that his organisation would continue to charter planes depending on the number of evacuees coming to Jordan over the coming stage.

A second flight scheduled for Saturday was cancelled because there were not enough evacuees to fill half the plane, according to Royal Jordanian.

The IOM estimates about 25,000 refugees are now stranded by the war in Jordan, Syria, Turkey and Iran.

## NRCS thanks Turkey

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Turkish Red Crescent Society has presented the Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) with a bus as a gift to contribute to RCS's ongoing efforts to provide humanitarian services to the refugees fleeing Iraq and Kuwait.

NRCS Vice President Muhammad Miftah Al Hadid, who made the announcement Sunday, expressed deep appreciation to the Turkish society for the gift which was needed to help out a noble mission.

Dr. Hadid stressed the importance of maintaining strong and fruitful cooperation between the two societies.

In another statement Saturday Dr. Hadid announced the return to Jordan of three groups of RCS volunteers who had been sent to Iraq to carry out

## Premier receives 1st grant from GUVS

AMMAN (J.T.) — The General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) Saturday presented Prime Minister Mudar Badran with a donation of JD 25,000 as a first instalment of a GUVS contribution to the People's Army. Mr. Badran responded by expressing deep appreciation to the charitable organisations for their efforts to bolster the Kingdom's defences.

The Jordanian government expresses appreciation and gratitude to the voluntary and charitable societies for their due response to calls for supporting the People's Army which is considered back up force for the Jordanian Armed Forces, Badran said upon receiving the donation.

The donation was presented by GUVS President Abdullah Al Khatib and the members of GUVS executive council at a meeting held at the prime minister's office.

The donation shows a good response on the part of the private sector in general and the

## King discusses Gulf crisis with Cypriot foreign minister

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein received Saturday Cypriot Foreign Minister George Iacovou and discussed with him developments in the Gulf crisis and non-aligned nations endeavour to stop the war.

King Hussein stressed the need for the non-aligned nations to exert more efforts to bring about a peaceful settlement to the crisis to put an end to devastation and suffering.

Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri was present at the meeting.

Iacovou, who arrived on a two-day visit to Jordan, said in a statement at the airport that his visit to Amman preceded his visit to Yugoslavia where 15 foreign ministers of the Non-aligned Movement would discuss ways to end the Gulf war.

Iacovou was quoted as saying that the Belgrade meeting would include Iran, Algeria and India, three countries that have been

involved in a flurry of diplomatic activity in recent days to arrange a ceasefire.

He said that during his visit here, he hoped to hear Jordan's views about the crisis prior to the meeting in Yugoslavia where the non-aligned ministers hope to reach a common ground for a peace formula.

Iacovou said his country supports the U.N. Security Council resolution demanding Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait but noted that Cyprus does not support a double standard dealing or different criteria in handling world problems.

The Associated Press (AP) news agency quoted diplomatic sources here as saying that Iacovou's visit was an attempt to reconcile conflicting views within the Non-Aligned Movement on the form its peace initiative should take.

Iacovou chairs a committee of the movement charged with

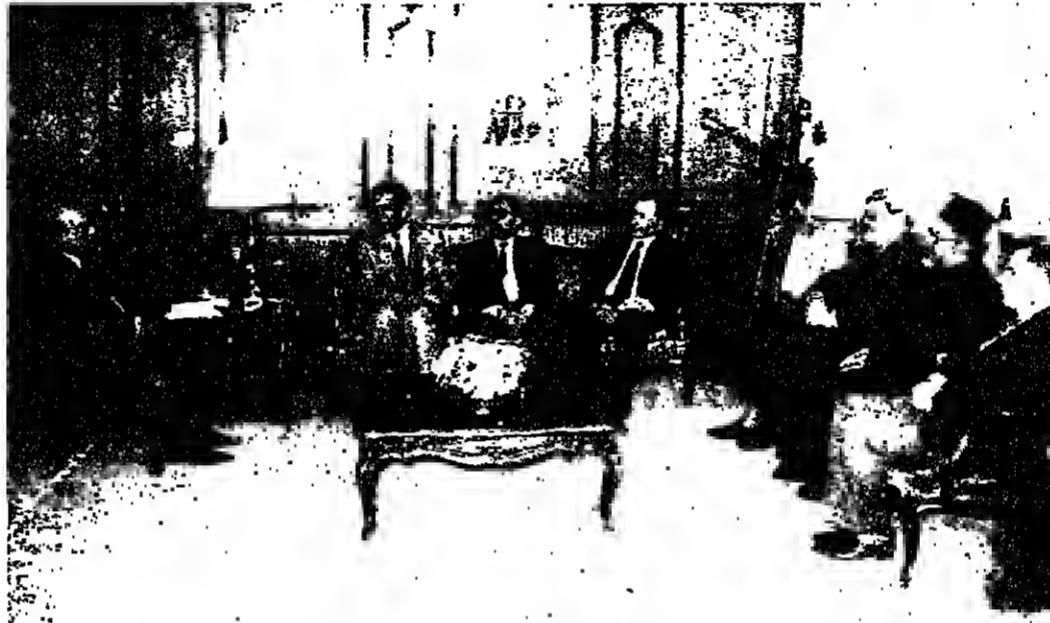
studying how to give the organisation of 115 states more say in international developments.

The Cypriot foreign minister and Mr. Masri later held a separate meeting during which they exchanged views about the Gulf war and the non-aligned countries moves to help end the conflict.

The two ministers expressed hope that serious efforts would be made on the part of the Belgrade meeting to reach an acceptable solution that would safeguard the interests of all concerned parties.

The two ministers also underlined the importance of preserving the Non-Aligned Movement's credibility as an essential element for settling world conflicts by peaceful means.

According to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, the two ministers also discussed the Arab-Israeli conflict and the deteriorating situation in the Israeli held Arab territories.



APRECIATION: Prime Minister Mudar Badran thanks members of GUVS council on the continued services of the voluntary societies in Jordan.

voluntary and charitable associations in particular as they carry out valuable services in various areas of Jordan, the prime minister noted.

He said that the donation was an expression by word and deed of the cohesion among Jordanian citizens and a manifestation of a strong national unity.

The government stresses its keenness on supporting and assisting GUVS endeavours and reiterates its pledge that it will exert all available power to ensure public safety and security to all Jordanians, the prime minister said at the meeting.

The prime minister expressed hope that Jordan will overcome the present difficulties with further determination and resolve

under the Hashemite leadership guided by the principles of the Great Arab Revolt.

Khatib and council members briefed the prime minister on GUVS activities and its cooperation and coordination with the concerned government departments. They also outlined GUVS plans to deal with emergencies resulting from the Gulf war.

Dr. Khatib described the meeting with the prime minister as a good opportunity to present a briefing to the government about GUVS contributions to the general effort to bolster the People's Army and the country's defences.

At least 450 GUVS centres in Jordan are ready to offer assistance to citizens under any

emergency, said Khatib after the meeting.

He added that the prime minister expressed deep satisfaction with GUVS activities which, among other things, include a plan drawn up in cooperation with the civil defence, the health ministry and other departments to provide services in the Amman region and its various districts.

Dr. Khatib urged all voluntary and charitable societies in the Kingdom to pursue efforts in raising contributions from the public.

The council members attending the meeting were: Father Costantine Karmash, Asem Ghoshe, Mohammad Al Hadid and Mohammad Wardan who is GUVS secretary general.

## Sharaf assails Western media

GENEVA (Petra) — Jordan's ambassador to the U.N. European headquarter, Sharif Fawwaz Sharaf, has said that His Majesty King Hussein's latest address to the nation expressed the opinion of the Arab Nation at an extremely difficult period when war is being launched against Arabs.

Answering questions of journalists on the implications of the King's address, Sharaf said His Majesty was fully aware of the course of political events in the region, and that his efforts were always aimed at informing the whole world of the dimensions of the Palestinian question and the rights of the Palestinian people.

Western diplomats have always appreciated the King's views and opinions and considered him as a spokesman for the whole Arab Nation on various Middle East issues, Sharaf said.

Sharaf said most of the speeches of Western politicians contained fallacies, falsification of facts and illusion of the public opinion which he never seen in more than 30 years.

Sharaf criticised the Western media for imposing a blackout on the news, saying that not even a single picture of any Iraqi civilian victim has so far appeared in the Western media.

The King's speech came at this

extremely difficult and precarious time, to tell the whole world that there is an Arab leader who can reflect Arab conscience and history, and can tell Western politicians and public opinion that there is an Arab point of view which they should know, Sharaf said. He added that the King has warned of the gravity of the continuous and intensive air raids launched by the U.S.-led alliance on Iraq, and the continued enforcement of blanket curfew on Arab citizens in the occupied Arab territories as well as the dangers the new world order poses to the countries of the region.

and other countries have sent to the committee several consignments of medicines and medical equipment and more is in the pipeline said Khreis.

In addition, he noted the committee has received numerous applications from volunteer Arab doctors in Denmark as well as pledges that they would be dispatching medicines and medical equipment to accompany doctors going to Iraq.

He said that the committee has several teams who tour various provinces in Jordan to collect donations against formal receipts, and that the contributions process was continuing.

## Arab Doctors Union succeeds in pooling assistance to Iraqis

AMMAN (J.T.) — The emergency health committee of the Arab Doctors Union (ADU) has collected JD 250,000 in cash and in-kind donations which it has passed on to Iraq, and more donations are expected soon, according to ADU's Secretary-General Hassan Khreis.

Dr. Khreis said that the committee will soon receive \$1 million as a donation from the Algerian Doctors Federation and is registering the names of doctors and nurses who have been volunteering to go to Iraq to offer medical assistance to the Iraqi people.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Khreis noted that the committee has received several medical teams from Jordan, Palestine, Algeria and Sudan and arranged for their departure for Iraq to work in hospitals and health centres there.

The ADU committee, he said, will soon receive teams of doctors and nurses from Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Yemen and Algeria to be delegated on similar missions in Iraq.

In addition, Tunisia, Sudan

treat the lasting problems of the historical cities of the Middle East and the eastern Mediterranean area, which often face — as it happens today — the spectrum of annihilation and destruction."

The mayor said he opposes mass killing and all forms of destruction and called on all mayors of cities of the Mediterranean and the Middle East regions to establish close ties among their cities.

## ROYAL JORDANIAN

### Royal Jordanian Flight Schedule

#### SUNDAY 10/2/1991

Departing flights from Amman to:

Dept.	Arrival
VIENNA	09:00 a.m.
PARIS	11:00 a.m.
LONDON	11:00 a.m.
TRIPOLI	11:30 a.m.
TUNIS	11:30 a.m.
LARNACA	09:15 a.m.
DAMASCUS	09:15 a.m.

Arriving flights to Amman from:

Dept.	Arrival
CAIRO	07:30 a.m.
VIENNA	01:30 p.m.
NEW YORK	09:30 p.m.
AMSTERDAM	11:30 a.m.
FRANKFURT	12:25 p.m.
VIENNA	03:00 p.m.

#### MONDAY 11/2/1991

Departing flights from Amman to:

Dept.	Arrival
CAIRO	10:00 a.m.
MUSCAT	11:55 a.m.
ROME	05:00 p.m.
VIENNA	05:00 p.m.
LARNACA	09:15 p.m.

Arriving flights to Amman from:

Dept.	Arrival
LARNACA	06:30 a.m.
TUNIS	04:00 a.m.
TRIPOLI	07:00 a.m.
CAIRO	01:15 p.m.
LONDON	09:25 a.m.
PANIS	12:10 p.m.
VIENNA	03:00 p.m.

#### TUESDAY 12/2/1991

Departing flights from Amman to:

Dept.	Arrival





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By Dr. Fahed Fanek

# Jordan Times

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## Sunday's Economic Pulse

# America against Jordanian people

LAST week the United States used the oil weapon against Jordan by targeting the Jordanian oil transportation vehicles on the international highway between Amman and Baghdad shedding in the process Jordanian blood for the first time in history.

President Bush emerged from last week's episode with his own hands directly covered with Jordanian blood, while in the past America used Israeli pilots to kill Arabs using American equipment.

This week the American president decided to carry his unwanted war against Jordan one step further. After using the oil weapon, he intends to use other economic weapons as well. He announced that after His Majesty King Hussein's speech last Wednesday, he will revise and suspend American economic aid to Jordan in order to starve the people of Jordan and give them a lesson.

The threat is meaningless, because the American aid was actually suspended since Aug. 2, 1990 despite all the good words and understanding that America had had for Jordan's adherence to the United Nations sanctions.

American financial aid was minimal anyway. The bulk of such aid never found its way to the Jordanian treasury. A revision of American aid to Jordan in the last 10 years will show that three quarters of the allocated amounts as aid to Jordan were in fact spent inside America on American consultants making studies and writing reports about privatisation, marketing, services, and other projects.

The new measure is said to be taken in reprisal to the speech by King Hussein which was covered live by the CNN network, seen and heard by American families.

The speech did not indicate any change of Jordanian policy. It simply reflected the true feelings of the Jordanian people. So in effect, President Bush wanted to punish not our actions but our feelings and opinion.

As is obvious, Jordan is not involved in any military action. Its army has dug along the Jordan Valley in a defensive posture to protect Jordan from a possible Israeli aggression. The only crime that President Bush has been able to point to is that the Jordanian public opinion is hostile against American savage raids waged at the Iraqi people and that the King identified with his people instead of suppressing his people as other Arab regimes are doing.

President Bush is punishing Arabs for being and feeling that they are Arabs. Perhaps he is under the wrong impression that only Jordanians are against the allied assault on an Arab people. The simple fact is that Arab public opinion is the same from Morocco in the west to Iraq in the east, and from Syria in the north to Yemen and Sudan in the south. The only difference lies in the degree of freedom of expression enjoyed by each Arab people. Under certain regimes the people are suppressed. What the Jordanians are saying represents

the conscience of the whole Arab Nation.

Democracy in Jordan allowed the people to express their views towards the war in a civilised manner through press coverage, opinionated editorials, peaceful demonstrations and memorandums, while lack of democracy in the Gulf states led the people in Jeddah to attack a bus to express the same sentiment. Here in Jordan the people are ready to cooperate with the government, and report any threat to public security, while in Saudi Arabia the government has to offer one million dollars to any citizen that agrees to help the authorities by providing information in any matter related to national

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## Change of medicine

By Stephen Hughes

RABAT, Reuter — King Hassan of Morocco, a staunch friend of the United States and Saudi Arabia, is riding a huge wave of pro-Iraqi sentiment.

The king, who celebrates 30 years on the throne next month, sent 1,300 infantry troops to join the multinational Gulf force after Iraq invaded Kuwait on Aug. 2.

But even though four opposition parties and Muslim fundamentalists seized on a surge of support for Iraq across North Africa to organise Morocco's biggest street protest on Sunday he is resisting calls to bring the army home.

"King Hassan and the government are trying to ride a wave of strong pro-Iraqi sentiment by taking the initiative away from the opposition," one Western diplomat said.

"It's like riding a surf board and requires a great deal of agility," he added.

An estimated 300,000 people marched through Rabat in sup-

port of Iraq on Sunday.

"Bring back the Far (royal armed forces)" the marchers chanted. "We are all Iraqis," proclaimed banners in the parade attended by lawyers, doctors, trade union, student, university and human rights groups.

It was the first authorised street protest since King Hassan sent his troops to Saudi Arabia where they are stationed at the kingdom's largest oil refinery in Assifana.

"I certainly did not (sent them) to combat Iraq to make it withdraw from Kuwait," the king said in a broadcast in which he explained the troops were on an independent defensive mission.

"I will not allow the presence of Moroccan troops abroad to be criticised because it would threaten their morale," he said after opposition leaders had called for their withdrawal during a special session of parliament devoted to the Gulf crisis.

As supreme commander of

the royal armed forces, which number more than 200,000 men, the king said his prerogatives could not be denied.

Sunday's well-organized demonstration went off without incident. Earlier the king had said he would decree a state of siege at the first sign of disorder and have troublemakers tried by military tribunals.

But so far there has been no large-scale violence of the kind that erupted in December.

In attempts to take the initiative away from the opposition, the palace is gathering humanitarian aid for Iraq. The government has told opposition parties they cannot collect public donations.

The king's daughter, Princess Lalla Meryem, president of the army's social services, gave the international red cross 60 tonnes of medicines for Iraq on Thursday.

The monarch's sister, Princess Lalla Malika, president of the red crescent, is appealing for cash donations to pay for humanitarian aid for Iraqi victims of the war to drive Iraq from Kuwait.

Leave Israel even more suspicious of Palestinian intentions than in the past.

They are also troubled by the incarceration without trial of leading Palestinian moderate Sari Nusseibeh.

"Both those moves are extremely troubling. By inviting Moledet into the government Shamir is playing with fire. The relationship cannot survive a mass expulsion of Palestinians," said Adam Garfinkle of the Foreign Policy Research Council.

By bringing what even some

Television pictures of Israel rushing to sealed rooms and donning gas masks as missiles crashed into Tel Aviv prompted a wave of pro-Israel sympathy in the United States virtually unparalleled since the 1967 Middle East war.

The big question now is, how long will it last.

"I don't think the problems are past but I think the relationship has improved and will remain a much better relationship," said Shoshana Cardin, chairwoman of the conference of presidents of major Jewish organisations.

"However, there will be enormous pressure on the Bush administration to deliver to Israel to a Middle East peace conference after the war. That is going to create a lot of tension," he said.

In fact, the old bugbear of U.S.-Israeli relations — Israel's policy of expanding Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and in the annexed neighbourhoods of East Jerusalem — had already raised its head.

The Gulf crisis came in the nick of time for Israeli-American relations after a year of increasingly acrimonious exchanges as Washington tried unsuccessfully to cajole Israel into peace talks with Palestinians from the occupied territories.

But all that seemed forgotten after Israel needed a U.S. request that it not retaliate for Iraqi Scud missile attacks on the Jewish state.

And officials are

**Jordan**

(Continued from page 1)

row between Amman and Washington surfaced Thursday when the foreign minister, Taha Al Masri, met with the U.S. ambassador, Roger Garrison, upon the request of the ambassador. Informed sources described the meeting as "stormy." The ambassador was believed to have conveyed Washington's "displeasure" over the King's remarks the day before.

"Essentially the ambassador used the same tone and language used by President Bush himself the day before," said one of the sources. What was left unsaid but clearly understood during the meeting, according to the source, was the U.S. was lodging a protest against the King's speech.

Reports that Jordan was considering breaking diplomatic relations with the U.S. were categorically denied by senior officials Friday.

In Washington later Friday, White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater also said the administration had not received any indication to the effect that Amman might be studying a break in relations.

The spokesman said the administration was reviewing "the question of U.S. assistance (\$35 million in economic support funds and \$20 million in military sales for fiscal year 1990-91) to Jordan."

Repeatedly asked whether Washington "still" considered Jordan "a neutral" in the Gulf war, Mr. Fitzwater would only contend that "Jordan has declared allegiance to Iraq" and the Kingdom "has taken up (the Iraqi) cause."

The spokesman maintained that Jordan was playing a "role in (Iraqi) efforts to split the (U.S.-led) coalition..."

At the same time, Mr. Fitzwater also said Washington was "still keeping the lines open in the sense that there will come an end to this war, and afterwards, we'll have to determine a proper relationship."

The situation is under review, being analysed by our experts in the State Department and other places..." he said.

Mr. Fitzwater also implied that the administration believed there is evidence "of supplies and so forth going to Iraq" in violation of the international sanctions against Iraq. But, he conceded, "I don't have any way to quantify that..." And he also appeared to be hasing his assumption on media reports.

Both Mr. Fitzwater and State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutweiler were non-committal when asked by reporters whether the administration would try to exert further pressure on Jordan through the International Monetary Fund (IMF) or the European Community or similar institutions.

"I'm not sure that if the change in our policy that we are reviewing our aid to Jordan will affect that," said Ms. Tutweiler at the State Department.

Mr. Fitzwater said, "it is under review now, and I don't want to prejudge that."

EC sources said in Brussels Friday that the community had no intention to review its economic assistance to Jordan. The community and Jordan have formalised an agreement under which EC would provide \$200 million in grant to the Kingdom to support its imports from EC member states this year.

**Council**

(Continued from page 1)

benefit of children and mothers and to ascertain essential health needs.

The director of the United Nations Children's Fund said Friday he expects the allies will grant safe passage to the convoy of dozens of U.N. trucks carrying emergency medicines from Iran to Baghdad.

U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering and Ambassador Hanley both announced that their governments had been advised of the planned convoy, and would make arrangements.

James Grant, the UNICEF and the World Health Organisation will send \$500,000 in medical supplies to Iraqi women and children, probably late next week.

The trucks will head from Tehran, the Iranian capital, to Baghdad, carrying mainly pediatric medicines, Mr. Grant said. He said the Iraqi army would already have stocked such drugs in advance, addressing concerns that such drugs could be diverted.

He said UNICEF and the WHO are asking the allies to suspend hostilities along the highway as the convoy passes. He noted all members of the U.S.-led multinational coalition have agreed children should be exempt from wartime privation.

"At this moment, what you have is a 'bubble of tranquility,' which is that the convoy that will be going down an agreed corridor at an agreed date, and agreed time, both sides will agree to honour that," Mr. Grant said.

"Both sides will have agreed, we expect, in advance, that they will not confuse military operations with this convoy," he added.

**Casualties**

(Continued from page 1)

the offensive would be crushed.

Another state-run daily, Al Jomhouria, said Iraqis were eager for the ground battles to begin, "so that the evil enemies can swim in their blood."

Baghdad Radio said U.S. President Bush, French President Francois Mitterrand and British Prime Minister John Major were war criminals "who will be tossed on the ash heap of history."

It said Mr. Mitterrand "has turned a blind eye" to alleged strikes on civilian areas in the city of Basra by French "warplanes."

Mr. Major, it said, "is the descendant of those British colonialists who plundered and divided the wealth of peoples."

U.S. Brigadier-General Richard Neal told a news briefing in the Saudi Arabian capital Saturday more than 750 Iraqi tanks have been destroyed since the Gulf war erupted three weeks ago.

Iraq had more than 4,500 tanks in the Kuwait theatre when the war began, including dozens of sophisticated Soviet-made T-72s in the arsenal of its elite Republican Guard.

The guard, heavily dug in in southern Iraq, has been under relentless allied air assault since Operation Desert Storm was launched.

Gen. Neal said the allies had so far destroyed 650 Iraqi artillery pieces and 600 armoured personnel carriers.

Tehran Radio reported allied fighter-bombers pounded Basra in five bombing runs on Saturday. It said waves of attack on Basra and its suburbs started at 7.20 a.m. (0350 GMT) and each lasted 10 minutes.

**THE PROFESSIONALS  
ALWAYS CHOOSE  
THE RELIABLE**

**PACKING, AIR FREIGHT  
FORWARDING, DOOR-TO-DOOR  
SERVICES AND  
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**Jordan Times**

**JORDAN MARKET PLACE**

## Algeria's Morceli wins mile at Meadowlands Indoor Athletics

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey (Agencies) — Nouredine Morceli of Algeria just missed Eamonn Coghlan's world indoor mile record when he won the event in three minutes 50.81 seconds at the Meadowlands Invitational Indoor Athletics meet.

Morceli grabbed the lead at 300 metres and finished 35 metres ahead of Ireland's Marcus O'Sullivan, who placed second in 3:50.75.

The 20-year-old Morceli, the world's top-ranked outdoor miler in 1990, would have collected a \$100,000 bonus if he had broken the 3:49.78 mark set by Ireland's Coghlan at this meeting in 1983.

"It is my second race since September," said Morceli, who won the Millrose Games mile last week in 3:53.50. "Now I have the rhythm in my legs."

Morceli, who plans to run again in Stockholm and New York before the World Indoor Championships in March, said he would have broken Coghlan's record with a stronger field.

"I ran the last half by myself and if there had been someone to push me it would have been faster. I feel the record can be broken at some race soon."

World indoor record holder Dumitru Melinte of Romania won

the women's mile in an easy 4:28.11. Melinte, who set the record of 4:17.14 here last year, led from the half mile mark and cruised unaccompanied over the last five laps.

Andrew Cason, having established himself as the best indoor sprinter this season, rolled to his fourth straight victory Friday night by taking the 55-metre sprint in the Meadowlands Invitational.

Cason, the 1990 indoor champion from Texas A & M, is unbeaten since finishing fourth at Hamilton, Ontario, on Jan. 11 in Ben Johnson's heralded return to competition.

In that race, Cason was called for a questionable false start although he appeared to get out of the blocks legally.

The quick-starting Cason was called for a false start Friday night, but this time, it didn't rattle him.

On the re-start, he again was out first, and maintained the lead throughout, winning in 6.18 seconds.

"The false start didn't bother me," Cason said. "I just waited for the gun, tried to keep my head down and accelerate."

His victory ruined Tony Dees' attempt for a sprint-hurdles double.

Dees, the 1990 National Indoor Champion, won the 55-metre hurdles in 6.99. That race was held about 10 minutes before the dash.

Dees, who won the sprint last year and was second in the hurdles, finished second in the dash Friday night, reversing his finishes of a year ago.

"I was tired, more mentally than physically," Dees said. "It takes a whole day to prepare for a race and you can't do a day's work in 10 minutes. My reaction at the start was slow."

"Run a hurdler... that's it."

Daron Council, winner of the dash at Ottawa, was fourth Friday night in 6.28.

In the hurdles, Dees led from the start and opened a substantial lead midway through the race. He had to withstand a late rally by six-time winner Greg Foster, who was late out of the blocks. Foster was timed in 7.01.

"I hit the fourth hurdle and it stood me straight up," Foster said. "That's what cost me the race."

In the women's sprint and hurdles, the winners were the same as in last year's meet — Lavonna Martin in the hurdle in 7.53 and Michelle Finn in the dash in 6.75. Martin had to come from be-

hind to nip 1981 Olympic bronze medalist Kim McKenzie.

In the dash, Finn, the 1990 national outdoor champion at 100 metres, led all the way in beating Sheila Echols and Gwen Torrance, each timed in 6.77. Echols was given second place.

Diane Dixon, the women's overall leader in this season's Mobil Grand Prix, raced to her fifth straight victory and a meet-record eighth triumph in the women's 400 metres in 52.58.

It was Dixon's sixth consecutive win in this meet, and she has won every 400 metres in the Meadowlands Invitational since 1983, except for 1985, when she was edged in a controversial finish by Valerie Briscoe Honks.

Debbi Lawrence, 29, clipped nearly seven seconds off the world indoor best in the women's 1,500-metre race walk, clocking 5:54.35. The previous mark of 6:01.16 was set shy Maryanne Torrellas in this meet in 1987.

Villanova's Sonia O'Sullivan, who set a world indoor best for the women's 5,000 metres Jan. 25 at Boston, shattered the meet record in winning the collegiate mile in 4:35.19. The old mark of 4:42.93 was set last year by Slobahn Gallagher of Providence.

Svan, winner of the opening 30K classic-style race Thursday, said he lost the race on the final two kilometres of the course.

"I had no strength left on the uphill stretches. That's where he beat me," said Svan, the most winning cross-country skier in World Championship history.

Vladimir Smirnov of the Soviet Union, a classic-style expert, finished third, 10.6 seconds behind Dahlke. He had won a silver medal in the 30K.

## Norwegian wins men's cross-country skating

VAL DI FIEMME, Italy (AP) — Bjorn Dahlke, skating hard on the final uphill stretch, beat Gunde Svan by 3.4 seconds to win the men's 15-kilometre freestyle cross-country race Saturday at the World Nordic Ski Championships.

Dahlke, starting just behind Svan and controlling the Swede's intermediate times throughout the race, covered the race in 36 minutes, 57.2 seconds.

It was the first medal in a major championship for the 23-year-old Norwegian, who has been the most frequent freestyle skier on the World Cup circuit this season.

But Dahlke, who is second in the current World Cup standings after two wins and one second, wasn't confident going into the race.

"During the warmup before the race I didn't think I would have a chance to win," he said. "I slept bad last night. I was nervous."

"And I had a cold last week and felt chest pain. I was worried about my health."

Svan, winner of the opening 30K classic-style race Thursday, said he lost the race on the final two kilometres of the course.

"I had no strength left on the uphill stretches. That's where he beat me," said Svan, the most winning cross-country skier in World Championship history.

"I really did not think about it, not even (about) the other skaters. I wanted to skate for myself," he said after the race.

His record time also placed him in a commanding position in the World Championship provisional standings.

## Johnson tells Lewis 'any time, anywhere'

OSAKA, Japan (AP) — If you're out there Carl Lewis, Ben Johnson says he's got a message for you.

"Any time, anywhere."

"Carl Lewis should know that I'm not afraid to run against him," said Johnson, in Japan to compete in his fourth comeback race after a two-year ban for using steroids.

"So far, Johnson has won one race and finished second in two others in his comeback, which began on Jan. 11. In the process,

he was set two Canadian records — 5.75 seconds over 50 metres and 6.20 seconds in the 55-metre dash.

"No one is talking about Ben going to nightclubs any more, he just sleeps and eats well and works hard," Azan said.

"The 29-year-old Canadian sprinter, stripped of a world record and gold medal after failing a drug test at the Seoul Olympics, is scheduled to race against Lewis in August in Malmo, Sweden."

But at a news conference Saturday, his manager suggested the two may come head-to-head sooner.

"We are hoping that (Malmo)

won't be the first race," said Kemeel Azan. "There is a strong possibility of a match-race soon...

...in Europe, or possibly even Canada."

### Horoscope not received.

#### THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



"We're out of croissants. How about some bent toast?"

#### JUMBLE

THAT SCRABLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

**NOBAT**

NOBART

NOBART

NOBART

RUPUS

RUPUS

RUPUS

RUPUS

LONPEL

LONPEL

LONPEL

UNGOAT

UNGOAT

UNGOAT

UNGOAT

ignorance is bliss

THAT OPINIONATED GUY WAS ALWAYS DOWN ON ANYTHING ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: HE WAS

(Answers tomorrow)

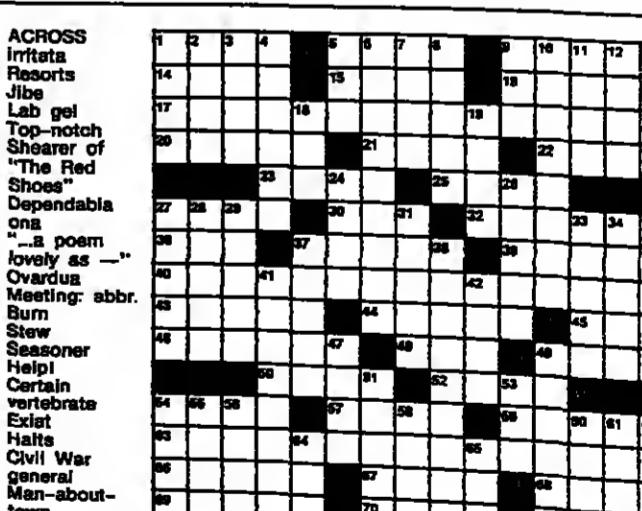
Yesterday's | Jumble: EJECT STOKE BLEACH HANGAR

Answer: Ha misses his wife's cooking ---

EVERY CHANCE HE GETS

#### THE Daily Crossword

by Rose M. Campbell



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ATMATEL ASTATE ALPES

GIRADODIS TIDE SLAP

SEEDGEGAL TABU

XEDO STAGAUS

AIDOGES PILE TIDE

SADIO CUDU REBEAT

DEJA TADAGEE TIDE

QIAZON TAH TIDE

ELLELLI LIEG COSEN

ACRE DICE COSEN

BRAZHELI MEASLES

LITMO STANDSTILL

OPEFE OHIO TEASE

BEISS BAMP ERRED

41 Left a ship

42 Conceal

47 Unscrupulous

58 To shelter

60 Hero

61 Vene

62 Hold it, family

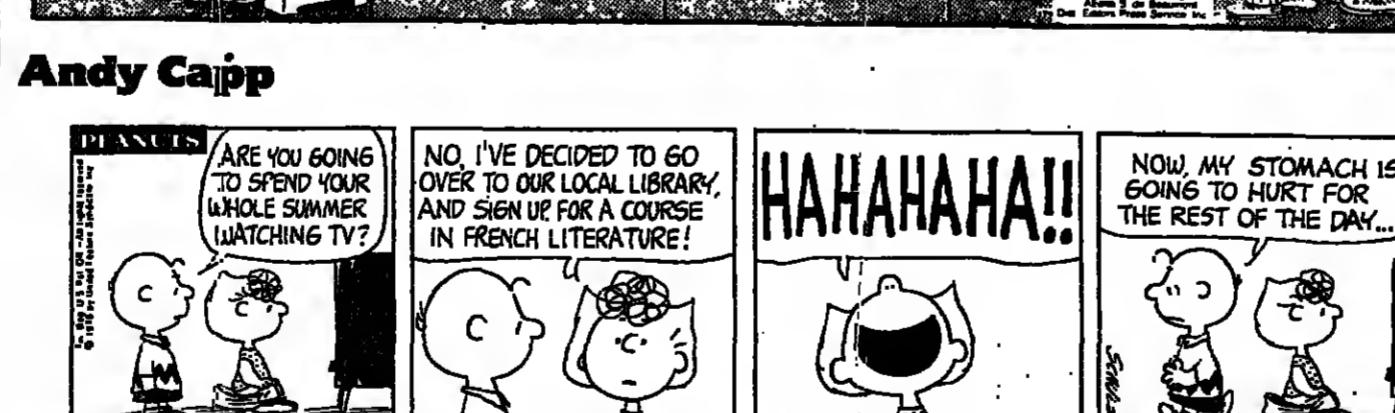
64 Sp. cheer

65 Attempt

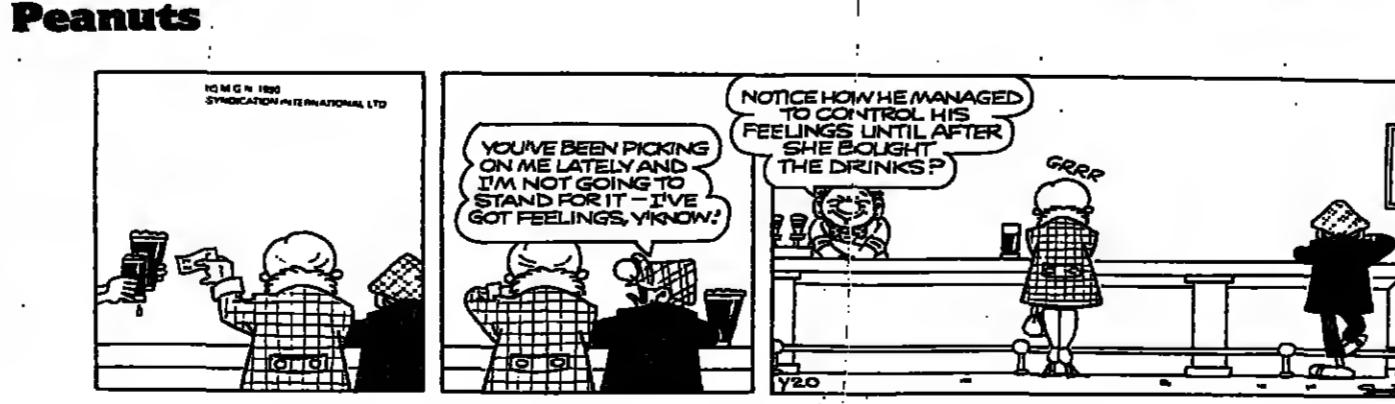
#### Mutt 'n' Jeff



#### Andy Capp



#### Peanuts



# Economy

JORDAN TIMES, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1991

## Ailing dollar needs economic rebound, not just intervention

**NEW YORK (R)** — Day after day, central banks swoop into world currency markets, buying dollar in a desperate effort to pull the currency off record lows.

But while this week's massive

point of intervention has helped,

analysts say, nothing short of a

U.S. economic rebound will lead

to a real dollar comeback.

"It's a tactical move to wrong-

face the market and it's failed. I

can't understand why they're

throwing good money after bad,"

said William Ledward of Nomura

Securities in London.

Friday, central banks launched

a fifth straight day of interven-

tion. Thirteen banks from

Europe were joined by the Fed-

eral Reserve and the Bank of Cana-

da in the dollar buying.

But all they had to show for the

effort was dollar that topped

Thursday's record traded low of

1,4467 Deutschemarks — its

latest in a series of new bottoms.

The dollar closed Friday at

1,4550 Deutschemarks, up slightly

from 1,4550 at Thursday's close.

Analysts said stronger

medicine was now needed: An

end to the recession, America's first in eight years.

"When we begin to see the bottom of the economy, when things slowly start coming back, the dollar will recover, but it will be piecemeal," said managing director Rayelle Weber Tyler at International Treasury Consulting.

### NEWS ANALYSIS

Analysts say the waves of intervention cannot be fully effective, as the different pace of growth among the Group of Seven (G-7) industrial nations will prevent the interest rate adjustments needed to back intervention.

Germany, concerned with inflation, has raised its interest rates, while the Federal Reserve (Fed) hoping to curtail the recession has been pushing U.S. rates lower.

That's bad news for the dollar, as investors turn to currencies like the mark that offer higher yields.

And the dollar has not only hit

record lows against the Deutsche-mark, which was created after World War II, but against the Swiss franc as well, and has fallen to 10-year lows against the British pound.

"Historically, if you look back at the dollar during a period of intervention, you do see a turnaround," said currency analyst David Gilmore of McCarthy, Crisant Maffei. "But part of what turned the market around were adjustments in interest rates."

While the G-7 — the United States, Germany, Japan, Britain, Canada, France and Italy — consult on economic policy, each has its own agenda.

"Domestic concerns in each of the major countries have taken precedence over global G-7 unity or global concern over the dollar," said assistant vice president Carl Amendola at Hypobank.

"The 1.45 mark level had been key, and 1.40 is seen as crucial," said Amendola. "From here on down, all levels are going to be key. The central banks don't stand a prayer."

The dollar's decline against the yen has not been as marked as its slide against the mark, but dealers expect the Bank of Japan to intervene if the record low of 120.45 yen, hit in January 1988, comes within market reach.

The dollar closed Friday at 127.80, down from 128.40 yen at Thursday's close due to speculative selling overseas and a stronger yen versus the mark.

"I think the Bank of Japan will come in just before 125 yen," said Yoneo Sakai, joint general manager of treasury operations at the Fuji Bank.

And while the Fed continues to pursue a policy of lower interest rates to stimulate the economy, some dealers are growing increasingly optimistic about the dollar's recovery.

"I'm a firm believer that consider the economic numbers we have seen most of the weakness," said John Hickey, senior vice president at Kansallis Banking Group.

"(Fed Chairman Alan)

Greenspan has already taken a dramatic move, and I think he'll wait and watch for a while."

## Moscow hikes alcohol prices in restaurants

**MOSCOW (R)** — Moscow city council raised prices of alcohol in the city's restaurants and cafés by 20 per cent Friday in a move to increase funds for social services, the newspaper Izvestia reported.

The rises, which mean that the price of an average bottle of vodka will soar from about 10 to 30 roubles (\$18 to \$54 at the official exchange rate), were introduced amid rumours of planned increases over a wide range of food and other goods.

The increases do not affect prices in state liquor shops, where vodka and wine are often in short supply and where long lines form daily, especially before weekends and holidays.

Izvestia quoted an official of the city council, controlled by liberals and radicals strongly critical of the long-ruling Communist Party, as saying the extra income "will be used for the social protection of the underprivileged."

The newspaper said the price of beer would also be raised in both shops and restaurants. A half-litre bottle of the popular Zhigulovskoye brand, which now costs 80 kopecks (\$1.45), will cost 1.20 rubles (\$2.18) from Saturday.

### AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Saturday, February 9, 1991  
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	662.0	666.0
Pound Sterling	1317.0	1324.9
Deutschmark	454.6	457.3
Swiss franc	532.2	535.4
French franc	135.5	134.3
Japanese yen (for 100)	518.4	521.5
Dutch guilder	403.7	406.1
Swedish krona	120.1	121.7
Baht (for 100)	60.4	60.8
Belgian franc (for 10)	220.8	222.1

## China raises spectre of renewed inflation

**BEIJING (R)** — The spectre of renewed inflation has returned to haunt China, recalling memories of the panic buying that helped to spark social unrest in 1989.

The main culprit is inefficiency in the economy, said a report from the State Statistical Bureau.

"If it goes over 10 per cent, however, that's when you get into trouble with rekindled inflationary expectations starting massive demand that can't be met with increased supply," he noted.

"If they can manage inflation they could have a very good year. If they don't manage it correctly it could be disastrous since there's so much cash in the system," he added.

Diplomats said they anticipated a sharp tightening of credit to try to head off inflation.

The government relaxed credit last year to stimulate the economy, resulting in a huge amount of new lending.

Much of the new lending was not used productively, however. "Excesses were thrown out with reckless abandon ... but the funds were stagnant," said Economic Information daily, adding that credit often did not go where it would do the most good.

Another key problem was China's lack of a system for rewarding good enterprises and letting bad companies fail, it said, quoting a state statistical bureau.

Many poorly managed enterprises were simply taking new loans in order to pay off old debts, it said.

The State Statistical Bureau was encouraged by the upturn in demand, however, citing a 10.1 per cent increase in investments in fixed assets by state-owned enterprises in 1990.

It pointed to investment in 200 key construction projects.

Total wages of Chinese workers rose by a real 11.5 per cent in 1990 over the year before, the biggest increase since 1987, the official New China News Agency said.

Fierce inflation — approaching 30 per cent in cities — in 1988 and the first half of 1989 contributed to public anger at communist authorities that resulted in pro-democracy demonstrations and unrest.

The army crushed the challenge to the party's leadership in June 1989 when it cleared Beijing's Tiananmen square with tanks and guns.

Economic authorities clamped down on inflation with an austere programme that brought price rises down to two per cent last

## Australia sees time appropriate to campaign for tourism

**SYDNEY (R)** — Australian tourism officials want to rush out a campaign showing how far Australia is from the Gulf war to lure tourists frightened by threats of attack.

Bob the Australian Tourist Commission said Friday it wanted to avoid being labelled an opportunity.

"We have seen the knee-jerk reaction and all the cancellations that brought. Now we are hoping to pick up business we may not otherwise have got," an official said.

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## U.S. lawmakers fear long recession

**WASHINGTON (R)** — Despite rosy forecasts from President George Bush and his economic advisers, some U.S. lawmakers this week expressed deep concern that the economy might not rebound at midyear as the White House has predicted.

The president's proposed budget released Monday predicts the current recession will be short and shallow. Bush said Wednesday that the economy was facing only a "temporary setback."

But in budget committee hearings on Capitol Hill, Bush's advisers found considerable unease among lawmakers — whose frequent contact with constituents puts them closer to "where the rubber hits the road," as Senator Jim Sasser put it.

"I hope and pray this is a short, mild recession. But somehow I feel in my bones that that may not be the case... we could be coming up to the precipice and looking over," Sasser, a Tennessee Democrat, said Tuesday after White House budget Director Richard Darman spoke before the Senate budget panel.

Lawmakers applauded the budget itself, saying the seven-page document was the first honest attempt by a U.S. administration to estimate the deficit — a record \$318 billion in fiscal 1991 — that they had seen in years.

But several were worried about whether the U.S. economy could weather a prolonged Gulf war and sceptical about administration plans to pay for most of the conflict by passing the hat among the allies.

Others pointed to the rise in the unemployment rate last month to 6.2 per cent, the dollar's fall to new record lows against the Deutschmark this week, and indications that lower interest rates are not stimulating the economy.

They said consumer, business and banker confidence was falling along with the value of real estate assets which "normal" asset class is likely to suffer the most from the conflict.

"I am fearful, when real estate

values begin to fall no one knows where the real value is," Senator Pete Domenici, a New Mexico Republican, told Darman.

"It does bother me that that is out there and that our financial institutions... are reluctant to lend money. The response to reduced interest rates by the Federal Reserve is not showing itself to be very effective yet," Domenici said.

"In my district, I am told credit cannot be had at any price," Representative Christopher Shays, a Connecticut Republican, said during a House of Representatives budget committee hearing Thursday.

"There is fear... bankers are fearful," Representative Mike Parker of Mississippi said.

Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady said the administration expected some of the present economic uncertainty to fade as the public got accustomed to the Gulf war.

"Now that it is clear that the war is where it is, people have an understanding of it... I think you are going to see that confidence turn around and that will affect bankers, borrowers and consumers," Brady said.

Bush's chief economist Michael Boskin also said the war was unlikely to have a major economic impact as long as oil prices stay low and Iraq does not damage Gulf oil facilities.

Much of the attention at the budget hearings focused on whether U.S. banks, which have been suffering record failures, were bailing out the same slippery slope travelled by now-bankrupt savings and loans institutions in the 1980s.

William Seidman, chairman of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, said U.S. banks were in a far better capital position and were better supervised than

thrifts had been.

But he said banks would recover only when the economy did.

And he warned that banking system changes must be approached carefully so as not to further jeopardise lending ability and turn recession into depression.

According to private economists, the United States may not succeed quickly in battling the banks to lend more.

Hannström by a mountain of debts piled up in the 1980s, Washington has found that the usual weapons to fight a downturn — lower interest rates and higher government spending — may not work as well this time.

"It's going to be harder to climb out of the recession because of the overleveraged condition of the economy," said David Jones of Aubrey G. Lanston and Company.

Economists have said the government cannot spend much more to fight the recession because its budget deficit is already so big. The Federal Reserve, the nation's central bank, can cut interest rates further to try to boost growth, but it cannot force debt-burdened consumers and companies to borrow or cautious banks to lend.

"There's too much debt... and not enough income to pay for it," said Philip Braverman, chief economist at DKB Securities.

Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan warned last week a prolonged Gulf war would increase the risk of a deep recession.

"The risk is there, and I think the risk obviously would increase," he told the House Banking Committee.

Hopes for a short, shallow recession were "shot down like a Scud" by news of a big jump in unemployment last month, said Ward McCarthy, managing director of Stone and McCarthy Research Associate.

"The recession is going to last longer than many had hoped for," Lauson's Jones said.

## South Africa says foreign finance vital for peaceful reform

**CAPE TOWN (R)** — South Africa said Friday unemployment would make the country ungovernable by the mid-1990s unless international banks resumed lending and economic growth returned.

But Finance

## Lithuania, defying Gorbachev, stages poll on independence

VILNIUS, Soviet Union (R) — Tens of thousands of Lithuanians went to polling stations Saturday to record their views on independence in a ballot declared illegal by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

Described by the rebel Baltic republic's nationalist-dominated parliament and government as "an opinion poll," the informal referendum is almost certain to produce a massive display of support for the idea of an independent Lithuania.

Gorbachev, determined to hold the Soviet Union together in the face of mounting political and economic crisis, insists that Lithuania and its neighbours Latvia and Estonia could only break away after a long process.

Pro-government newspapers in Vilnius, scene of a bloody assault by the Soviet army last month on the republic's television centre in which 13 people died, called the ballot a turning point in Lithuanian history.

"A step towards our great

aim," a headline declared, referring to the policy of the administration of President Vytautas Landsbergis to restore Lithuania to its pre-World War II status of an independent republic.

Like Latvia and Estonia, Lithuania was incorporated into the Soviet Union in 1940. Moscow and local Communists say this was the will of the people at the time, but the present leaders of the three republics say they were forcibly annexed.

The poll, likely to be boycotted by a large section of Lithuania's Russian minority which fears discrimination under a strong nationalist government, is being held under the watchful eye of the Soviet military.

For the past few days, Lithuania's government officials say, Soviet military helicopters have been dropping leaflets produced by an anti-independence coalition, led by pro-Moscow Communists, calling on people not to vote.

The army command for the

Baltics has announced what it calls staff manoeuvres to begin at midnight Saturday, sparking charges from Landsbergis that the military is seeking to create "an atmosphere of intimidation."

An army spokesman said the exercises would be held outside cities and would involve only "the minimum necessary number of troops and equipment," the independent Baltic News Agency reported Friday.

The United States Friday criticised Gorbachev for declaring a Lithuanian ballot on independence illegal and said it would not help towards a peaceful solution of the Baltic problem.

Soviet officials say the poll will create new tension between the Lithuanian majority and the Russian and Polish minorities. Under parliamentary rules regulating the poll, 2.75 million people are entitled to take part.

Gorbachev has ordered a referendum throughout the Soviet Union on March 17 on whether the nation should be maintained

"as a renewed federation of equal sovereign republics," the Baltic republics as well as Georgia and Armenia have said they will not participate.

After elections last year, Armenia has a non-Communist administration. Georgia is led by fervent nationalists who are accused, even by many Soviet liberals, of waging a fierce campaign against minorities.

A radio reporter in Ciskei, asking not to be named, said by telephone the shooting could have been part of an attempt to topple military ruler Oupa Gqozo.

"We have heard, but this is not

officials confirmed, that quite a lot of people have been killed," he said.

"Brigadier Gqozo is out of the country, in Johannesburg or Pretoria, but it seems he is still in charge. We are still broadcasting normally. No one has tried to take us over."

The reporter said there was

prolonged shooting inside the military headquarters, a barracks

on the outskirts of the small town of Bisho, from about 7 a.m. (0500 GMT).

A corporal who declined to

give his name said by telephone from the headquarters: "There are many dead." The call was terminated before he could say

any more.

A government official, speaking from her home, said she

heard several bursts of gunshots

from inside the barracks.

It seems the shooting is among

the forces themselves. Maybe

someone is trying to take over."

A Reuter reporter said Bisho's

normally bustling streets were

almost deserted Saturday. Nervous soldiers stood guard near

the radio station and Gqozo's

residence.

Heavily armed soldiers ordered

three reporters to leave the town.

"We will shoot you if we see you here again," one soldier said.

Ciskei, on the southern Indian Ocean coast, is one of four tribal homelands given independence under South Africa's apartheid policy but not recognised internationally.

Gqozo and three other army

officers took power in a coup

almost a year ago. One of

Gqozo's three colleagues was kil-

led in an alleged counter-coup

late last month and Gqozo has

fired another.

He said last week he wanted

the region's senior judge rather than the remaining military council member, commandant S.S. Pita, to take over if anything

happened to him.

Gqozo claimed last month he

had prevented an attempted coup

by Charles Sebe, brother and

one-time security chief of former

President Lennox Sebe.

Charles Seb was shot and kil-

led by Gqozo's troops on Jan. 28.

and Gqozo has since accused the

African National Congress,

South Africa's main black

opposition group, of plotting to

overturn him military regime.

## Human rights 'deteriorating day by day' in Soviet Union — activists

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Human rights activists accuse President Mikhail Gorbachev of abandoning reform and trying to retain power "at any price, even by means of restoring a totalitarian system."

Reformers warn of "creeping counterrevolution" that could destroy such gains of Gorbachev's perestroika as a free press and freedom of assembly.

Helsinki Watch, a monitoring group, said the Jan. 13 military

Kremlin has denied ordering, was part of a six-year "pattern of violence" in which nearly 200

Rights activists point to the

resignation Dec. 20 of Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and the departures of other reform-minded officials as the first signal of a reactionary turn by Gorbachev. Shevardnadze warned in his resignation speech of a slide toward dictatorship.

"The situation is very bad and it deteriorates day by day, because now it's the final struggle for property and power in the Soviet Union," said Lev Timofeyev, a campaigner for human rights.

"It is my mind, they will put fewer people in prison, but it has been seen already that they are killing more people," dissident Sergei Grigoryants said in an interview.

Gorbachev is under pressure from Communist Party conservatives to be tougher on autonomy-minded republics and to preserve

economic collapse, ethnic strife and political turmoil.

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and resignations of other officials as the first signal of a reactionary turn by Gorbachev. Shevardnadze warned in his resignation speech of a slide toward dictatorship.

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